

Message Text

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ACTION EB-06

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 COME-00 TRSE-00 SP-02 AID-05

NSC-05 RSC-01 CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-01 OMB-01 CEA-01

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FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2659

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 1913

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EIND, ETRD, CH

SUBJECT: PRC FERROUS SCRAP REQUIREMENTS FOR THE FIRST SIX MONTHS
OF 1975

REF: (A) STATE 241649 (NOTAL) (B) STATE 19658

1. AS DEPARTMENT IS AWARE, THE CHINESE DO NOT PUBLISH ANY FORM
OF ECONOMIC STATISTICS NOR OTHERWISE PROVIDE INFORMATION ON THEIR
STEEL INDUSTRY OR REQUIREMENTS FOR STEEL SCRAP.

2. A RECENT CIA REPORT STATED THAT DUE TO BOTTLENECKS IN COAL
PRODUCTION AND OTHER PROBLEMS PRC STEEL PRODUCTION IN 1974
MAY NOT EXCEED THE 1973 LEVEL, WHICH WAS ESTIMATED TO BE 26 MILLION
TONS. WE WOULD EXPECT THESE PROBLEMS TO CONTINUE OVER THE SHORT
TERM AND GUESS THAT PRC STEEL PRODUCTION IN THE FIRST SIX MONTHS
OF 1975

WILL BE IN THE VICINITY OF 13-14 MILLION TONS.

3. WE ALSO GUESS THAT IF THERE WERE NO US STEEL SCRAP EXPORT
CONTROLS THE CHINESE MIGHT IMPORT AS MUCH AS 500,000 TONS OF STEEL
SCRAP WORLD-WIDE IN THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF NEXT YEAR, WITH A LARGE
PORTION COMING FROM THE US. THIS IS NOT A REFINED ESTIMATE HOWEVER,
SINCE OUR DATA ARE SCANTY. WE HAVE NO ESTIMATE OF PRESENT PRC
SCRAP INVENTORY.

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4. AS EVIDENT FROM REF B, IT IS NOT CLEAR WHETHER THE CHINESE WILL TAKE UP THEIR FULL FOURTH QUARTER QUOTA.

5. IN ANSWERING PREVIOUS MESSAGES ON THIS SUBJECT, WE HAVE POINTED OUT THAT AMCONGEN HONG KONG MAY BE IN A BETTER POSITION TO PROVIDE INFORMATION ON PRC STEEL PRODUCTION AND SCRAP REQUIREMENTS THAN USLO. WE ARE REPEATING REF A TO HONG KONG IN THE EVENT THAT THEY CAN SUPPLEMENT THE INFORMATION GIVEN IN PARAS 2-3 ABOVE.
BUSH

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NNN

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